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11-9-99 10:00 AM FAX 24

Dr. Jane E. Henney
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

As a future physician, I am writing to you concerning an issue I believe is of great importance with regard to public health - the use of antibiotics to promote livestock growth. I feel that jeopardizing the effectiveness of antibiotics essential to public health is a too high price to pay to fatten hogs and poultry.

As you know, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and prominent public health organizations have expressed great concern about the massive use of antibiotics to increase livestock weight in the light of growing evidence of antibiotic resistance. The United States should follow the example of the European Union, which banned adding human-use antibiotics to animal feed last year.

Banning the use of antibiotics as livestock feed additives immediately would be an important step to ensuring that these critical drugs will continue to treat human disease effectively. Let's hope that antibiotic resistance does not grow into a public health crisis before the United States takes effective action to regulate the unnecessary use of these drugs in animal feeds. Again, I urge you to use your power responsibly in this matter and put the health of American citizens above corporate profit making interests.

Thank you for your time,

Margaret M. Brewinski

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